

Status of Trash Burning in Other States

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Eastern U.S.

Vermont

Regulations

Residential trash burning is illegal (not sure how long this has been).

Outreach & Education

Focuses on poor air quality due to "Midwestern power plants" and smoke from wood burning stoves as the reason why no additional burning is allowed. Health impacts of particulate emphasized.

Delaware

Regulations

Trash burning banned.

Education & Outreach

A Citizen's Guide explaining health impacts and other alternatives.

Tennessee

Regulations

Discussion w- Carroll Williams: Air Quality rules banned open burning in the 1960s, however, there was an exception that allowed single family homes to burn their own waste. Solid Waste Division rules have since changed this rule to ban all open burning of trash. Ms. Williams thought that the solid waste rules said that counties had to provide alternative disposal options. Mark Warren researched the rules and did not find language that said such. Link to TN rules: www.state.tn.us/sos/rules/1200/1200.htm

Western U.S.

California

Regulations

Rural areas of the state (about 800,000 households) were still allowed to burn trash until recently. All burning of household trash banned as of January 1, 2004, except for areas of very low population density. No burning of plastics or garbage allowed anywhere.

Education & Outreach

Fact Sheet on Backyard Household Waste Burning: "What you don't know can hurt you!"

Washington

Regulations

Since 2001, residential fires have been banned in cities and urban growth areas with populations greater than 5000. Burning garbage has been outlawed since the 1970's. New law, effective January 1, 2007 will ban burning in all urban growth areas (1,000 people per square mile). Originally passed in 1991 and set to take effect in 2001 to give smaller communities time to develop alternatives to burning. In 1998, the Legislature moved the effective date to 1/1/2007.

Incentives/Cost-Convenience of Options

Staff member indicated that there are no state incentive programs that offer assistance for the establishment of alternative waste disposal options. It is basically up to the local governments.

New Mexico

Regulations: Trash burning banned allowed in communities with population less than 3000 that do not have public refuse collection service or means to establish a service. State is currently exploring other options such as : 1) Local control with no state restrictions. State conducts outreach and education; 2) State minimum standards with option for local control that meets or exceeds minimum; takes the availability of alternatives into account, and require 1000 feet minimum distance from nearest neighboring structure; and 3) Statewide prohibition on trash burning.

Midwest

Illinois

Regulations

Open burning of garbage is prohibited in Illinois. Burning of household waste (except garbage) is permitted only on the premises where it is generated and outside any "restricted area" (defined as any city, village, or incorporated township plus a zone extending one mile beyond the boundaries where there is a population of 1,000 or more).

Nebraska, Missouri, and South Dakota

Regulations

All three have some limitations, but in general, open burning of residential solid waste is allowed.

Minnesota

Information provided by Mark Rust at Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA)-MPCA. See accompanying Power Point presentation – MN Burn Barrel Campaign (road show).

Regulations:

It is against the law, since 1969, to burn or bury household wastes. However, an exception was added in the mid-1980's allowing a person who owns or operates land used for farming to burn solid waste generated from the person's household or as part of the person's farming operation if the burning is done in "a nuisance free, pollution free, and aesthetic manner" on the land used for farming. This exception does not apply if regularly scheduled pickup of solid waste is reasonably available at the person's farm.

Current prevalence of trash burning:

MPCA conducted a statewide survey and found that **45%** of respondents dispose of their household wastes in burn barrels, fire pits, or similar devices. The percentage of burners was around 60% in SW and SE MN. Less than half of all respondents who burn are farmers; the remainder is made up of businesses, cabin-owners, and rural residents (majority).

Education/Outreach

- MOEA Local Government Assistance staff went on the road last summer (2006) with burn barrel campaign, visiting over twenty townships.
- Outreach focuses on changing behavior through **education, infrastructure, incentives** and **enforcement**.
- Environmental-Health focus is on dioxin impacts, especially in rural areas.

- Media Campaign = Bernie the Burn Barrel.

Incentives/Convenience & Cost of Options

Focusing on:

- Hauler coverage;
- Staffed and un-staffed drop-off sites;
- Rural sheds; and
- Education to inform residents of the drop off options.

Some areas are exploring a roll-off partnership option where a group of farmers will share the cost of a large roll-off. Another option that is being explored is for local government to contract with haulers to establish times that drop-off is available. An example would be that drop-off is available for four hours every Saturday at a set location. Fee could be per bag.

Burn Barrel Buy-Back Program

- Chisago County passed no-burn resolution
- Teamed up w/ haulers and offered ½ price garbage service for 6 months
- Sign no-burn pledge in exchange for turning in barrel for free disposal
- Cut burn barrel use nearly in half in 4 years

Enforcement Case Study

- Half-time position in Sheriff dept.
- \$30,000/yr (Solid Waste fees)
- Participating county said they would continue to fund w/o SW money
- Gateway to many other violations (meth, etc.)
- Deputy said that this was the first time in 20 years that he felt he was making a difference.

MPCA Burn Barrel Campaign (Strategic plan)

Campaign Basics

- Strategic plan goal: Reduce emissions by 50% by 2008
- Eliminate burn barrels by 2010.
- 2006-2010: Work on reduction initiatives.
- Report to 2007 Legislature on effectiveness of reduction initiatives.

Phase One

- Do regional and county board presentations
- Ask the question “What will it take to get your residents to change their behavior?”
- Fund and support local/regional burn barrel buy-back campaigns and related initiatives.

Phase Two

- Continue reduction initiatives
- Conduct statewide/regional media campaign (e.g. Bernie the Burn Barrel).
- Report to Legislature on progress and recommend further steps to achieve 2010 reduction goal
- Burn Barrel Reduction Campaign grant program** - This FY 2007 grant program aims to encourage the use of sanitation facilities in place of burn barrels to dispose of garbage and to increase recycling and composting. A 25% match is required. A total of \$150,000 in grant money is available.

For more information on MN initiatives, see the publication "Clearing the Air: Tools for Reducing Residential Garbage Burning" (available at

http://www.wlssd.com/Open_Burning/Clearing_the_Air_downloadvs.pdf), the MN Burn Barrel Campaign presentation, and MPCA's website at <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/burnbarrel.cfm>